

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2019**

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HOUSE BILL 1117

Short Title: Protect Child Care Workers/COVID-19 Pandemic. (Public)

Sponsors: Representatives von Haefen, Belk, Fisher, and Hunt (Primary Sponsors).
For a complete list of sponsors, refer to the North Carolina General Assembly web site.

Referred to: Appropriations, if favorable, Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House

May 18, 2020

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS TO ADDRESS ADDITIONAL CHILD CARE
PROVIDER NEEDS IN RESPONSE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

SECTION 1.(a) The State Controller shall transfer the sum of one hundred twenty-one million three hundred ninety-six thousand two hundred forty dollars (\$121,396,240) for the 2019-2020 fiscal year from the Coronavirus Relief Reserve established under Section 2.1 of S.L. 2020-4 to the Coronavirus Relief Fund under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act of 2020, P.L. 116-136, established in Section 2.2 of that act.

SECTION 1.(b) There is appropriated from the Coronavirus Relief Fund to the Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Child Development and Early Education (DCDEE), the sum of one hundred twenty-one million three hundred ninety-six thousand two hundred forty dollars (\$121,396,240) in nonrecurring funds for the 2019-2020 fiscal year to assist in addressing child care provider needs related to COVID-19 and are allocated as follows:

- (1) Up to \$100,000,000 for increased bonuses for child care teachers and staff providing child care during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- (2) \$15,146,240 for health and sanitation supplies, personal protective equipment, and deep cleaning services for child care programs in response to COVID-19.
- (3) \$500,000 to cover out-of-pocket costs, including co-payments or deductibles, for COVID-19 testing for a child care provider or a child in a child care facility at which another child care provider or child has tested positive for COVID-19.
- (4) \$5,750,000 for an additional 52 local child care health consultants, at a caseload of 50 child care facilities per consultant, to ensure statewide coverage and one FTE State-level supervisor to support the additional local child care health consultants. These funds shall be used to provide health consultation services to support COVID-19 response by providing early educators with training and technical assistance needed to prevent and manage the spread of disease and to serve children with chronic or special health care, medication, or health care needs.

SECTION 1.(c) Any unspent funds remaining on June 30, 2020, shall be carried forward into the 2020-2021 fiscal year and are hereby appropriated for the 2020-2021 fiscal year. The funds shall be used for the purposes described in this section and the requirements and limitations set forth in the CARES Act.

SECTION 1.(d) This section is effective when it becomes law.



1 **SECTION 2.(a)** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of
2 Health and Human Services, Division of Child Development and Early Education, the sum of
3 sixteen million two hundred thousand dollars (\$16,200,000) in nonrecurring funds for the
4 2020-2021 fiscal year to provide funding for two weeks of paid sick leave for child care teachers
5 and staff providing child care during the COVID-19 pandemic. Each child care teacher or staff
6 person providing child care pursuant to this section shall receive payment for two weeks of sick
7 leave at one hundred percent (100%) of the teacher or staff person's current wages, provided that
8 a part-time teacher or staff person shall receive an amount equivalent to the wages that individual
9 would typically earn over a two-week period.

10 **SECTION 2.(b)** This section becomes effective July 1, 2020.

11 **SECTION 3.** The Division of Child Development and Early Education shall provide
12 a report to the House Appropriations Committee on Health and Human Services, the Senate
13 Appropriations Committee on Health and Human Services, and the Fiscal Research Division by
14 March 1, 2021, detailing the use of funds appropriated under this act.

15 **SECTION 4.** Except as otherwise provided, this act is effective when it becomes
16 law.